A

PREFACE

TO

The Eighth YEAR.

FOR the Introduction to my Sixth *Volume laſt foregoing, I borrow'd a few lines from our famous* Cowley; *here I ſhall make bold to take fuller and warmer encouragements from a Man of far greater renown, and for Learning and Devotion, jointly conſider'd, one of the Greateſt that hath appear'd in the Chriſtian world theſe* 1200 *years and upwards.' Tis one, that giveth us the old Accompt of the addreſſes and affectionate reſpects, which Wiſe men bore towards Philoſophers, and one Philoſopher to another; and withall of the travels and perils they undertook by ſea and land, over rocks and mountains, and through inhoſpitable deſerts, to viſit the moſt Eminent at the remoteſt diſtances, and for the Acqueſt of Arts and knowledge. The perſon, I mean, is St.* Hierome, *and the words, wherein he gives us that relation, are theſe, De Sæculi hominibus;*

Legimus in veteribus Hiſtoriis quoſdam luſtraſſe provincias, novos adiiſſe populos, maria tranſiiſſe, ut eos, quos ex *libris* noverant, *coram* quoque viderent. Sic *Pythagoras* Memphiticos vates; ſic *Plato* Ægyptum & Architam Tarentinum inviſit, eamque oram Italiæ, quæ quondam Magna Græcia dicebatur, peragravit; ut qui Athenis *Magiſter* erat, & potens, cujuſque doctrinam Academiæ, Gymnaſia perſonabant, fieret peregrinus atque *Diſcipulus*; malens aliena verecundè diſcere, quàm ſua imprudenter ingerere: Denique, cùm literas quaſi toto Orbe fugientes perſequitur, captus à Piratis atque venundatus, etiam Tyranno crudeliſſimo paruit, ductus captivus, vinctus & ſervus; tamen *quia Philoſophus, major emente ſe fuit.* Ad *T. Livium*, lacteo eloquentiæ fonte manantem, de ultimis Hiſpaniæ Galliarumque finibus quoſdam veniſſe Nobiles legimus, & quos ad contemplationem ſui

Roma

Roma non traxerat, *unius hominis* fama perduxit; Habuit illa ætas inauditum omnibus ſæculis celebrandumque miraculum, ut Urbem tantam ingreſſi, aliud extra quærerent. *Apollonius*, ſive ille Magus (ut vulgus loquitur) ſive Philoſophus; ut Pythagorici tradunt, intravit Perſas, pertranſivit Caucaſum, Albanos, Scythas, Maſſagetas, opulentiſſima Indiæ regna penetravit, & ad extremum, latiſſimo *Phaſonis* amne tranſmiſſo, pervenit ad *Brachmanas*, ut *Hiarchum*, in throno ſedentem aureo, & de Tantali fonte potantem, inter paucos diſcipulos, de Natura, de Motibus ſiderum, ac dierum curſu audiret docentem. Inde per Elamytas, Babylonios, Chaldæos, Medos, Aſſyrios, Parthos, Syros, Phœnices, Arabes, Palæſtinos, reverſus Alexandriam, perrexit in Æthiopiam, ut Gymnoſophiſtas & famoſiſſimam Solis menſam videret in ſabulo. Invenit ille Vir ubique quod diſceret, & ſemper proficiens, ſemper ſe melior fieret.

So far He; *by which lively and flagrant lines we may eaſily apprehend, what a reliſh this good Father had for the reputation of Philoſophy. And if any do wax pale at the growth of it, they ſeem to ſhew thereby, how little they have either of the intelligent Piety of this Holy man, or of the Civility of the Gentile Philoſophers.*

If it be objected, That here this Learned Father declares a Fondneſs for Apollonius, *as if none but the Vulgar had eſteemed him a Magician, but the Pythagoreans claim'd him for a Philoſopher; It may be conſider'd, that St.* Hierome *received this indulgent report from the Tradition of the more primitive Fathers, and particularly from* Juſtin Martyr, *who doubtleſs could diſcern deeper in Philoſophy, than Vulgar Heads, and might come nearer to the Truth than* Philoſtratus, *who perhaps might affect Romantique Stories. But* We *have no concernment for* Apollonius; *only we may vindicate the pious Father for his favourable ſentence; ſince we find it no new thing, that Great Philoſophers, Mathematicians and Un-common Artificers ſhould be defamed by the rude multitude for Magicians, or Atheiſts.*

We muſt grant, that in the laſt Age, when Operative Philoſophy *began to recover ground, and to tread on the heels*

of triumphant Philology ; *emergent adventures and great ſucceſſes were encountred by dangerous oppoſitions and ſtrong obſtructions :* Galilæus *and others in Italy ſuffered extremities for their Celeſtial Diſcoveries ; and here in England Sr.* Walter Raleigh, *when he was in his greateſt luſter, was notoriouſly ſlaundered, to have erected a School of Atheiſm, becauſe he gave countenance to Chymiſtry, to practical Arts, and to curious Mechanical Operations, and deſign'd to form the beſt of them into a Colledge. And Queen Elizabeths* Gilbert *was a long time eſteem'd extravagant for his Magnetiſmes ; and* Harvey *for his diligent reſearches in purſuance of the Circulation of the Blood.*

But, when our renowned Lord Bacon *had demonſtrated the Methods for a perfect Reſtauration of all parts of Real knowledge ; and the Generous and Philoſophical* Peyreskius *had, ſoon after, agitated in all parts to redeem the moſt inſtructive Antiquities, and to excite Experimental Eſſays, and freſh Diſcoveries ; The ſucceſs became on a ſudden ſtupendious, and Effective philoſophy began to ſparkle, and even to flow into beams of bright-ſhining Light, all over the World. And the ſaid* Peyreskius *his Orators,* Gaſſendus *and* Bucchardus, *have in their Hiſtories and Panegyricks raiſed him a more ſplendid Monument, than ſome of the greateſt Monarchs can ſhew. And it is remarkable, that when* Bucchardus, *a very eloquent Frenchman, had at Rome, in* Academia Humoriſtarum, *extolled, in a Funeral Oration, this his Countryman* Peyreskius *for one of the moſt wonderful Advancers of all kinds of Literature and of Arts that any age or place brought forth ; yet he came off with univerſal applauſe, and devout acclamations, though Pope* Urban *the 8th, and his favourite-Cardinals, and ſeveral great Princes in Italy, and many excellent perſons in Rome, did then highly pretend, and might not unjuſtly lay claim to the patronage, and extraordinary merit in every kind of Learning, Art, and Elegancy.*

Theſe Vertues will ſhine brighteſt amongſt the Vertuous ; and although the Emulation of Countries may grow hot, yet the beauty *of Vertue, and the* truth *of Philoſophy will prevail. The* Eaſt *and the* Brachmans *had the old Fame, (as the learned*

Fathers

Father hath told us above,) but the Curious Monſieur Bernier *being lately returned from the* Mogolians, *gives us good aſſurance, that neither they, nor their* Brachmans, *are now worthy to teach the* Europeans; *but the Wiſeſt amongſt them do rejoyce in the philoſophical Light, which now ſhines in the* Weſt, *and in our* North. *And who knows, how ſoon or how potently our wonderfull progreſs of Arts, and the Luſtre of our Philoſophy may awaken* them, *to embrace the more glorious doctrine of the Goſpel. We hope, this Ingenious Travellour will make haſt to give us a* Philoſophical *accompt of his Travels, with no leſs accurateneſs, than he hath given us the* Political *Myſteries of the* Mogolians, *and the Sottiſhneſs of the Chriſtian Abyſſins or Æ*thiopians.

When the Emulation was hotteſt on both ſides the Alpes, *who ſhould excell in the flowry Arts of Oratory and Poetry, though* Sanazary *was then on one ſide of the* Alpes, *and far greater men, great Poets on the other ſide in* France; *yet both the* Scaligers, *Julius and Joſephus, themſelves Italians and French, gave the lawrel to* Buchanan *a Scot. And thus the Weſt or North-wind, bringing the ſweet* flowers *of Philology, and the richeſt fruit of Philoſophy, will be more wellcome to the Intelligent, than the fetid and contagious blaſts from the Eaſt. And the Wiſe and the Vertuous ought not to regard the Cenſures and reproaches of the ignorant or malignant Multitudes. They retain an internal ſatisfaction within themſelves; and ſound Philoſophers are mutually each to other ſufficient Theaters. I ſhall no longer detain the Curious and Ingenious Reader from the buſineſs we have in hand.*

An Accompt